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FROM THE OFFICE OF JAMES COLBERT, JR.—SUPERINTENDENT

Of Note...

The 2018-2019 academic year is fast-approaching. We continue to prepare for the upcoming year and our client school districts are engaged in the same. As always, we strive for excellence and efficiency in operations, and the upcoming year will be no exception.

I began this week with a meeting of the Executive Leadership Team. This was a productive and resourceful meeting with the leaders of the organization. I also conducted other internal meetings with staff throughout the week.

This past Tuesday, I attended the North Harris Coalition Education Alliance Leadership Meeting. I support this group each year in its endeavor to improve educational opportunities in the North Harris County area. The meeting was impactful and provided HCDE with the visibility we seek in our mission to create opportunities for teaching and learning for citizens of all ages.

Today, I fulfilled my responsibility to the Northwest Assistance Ministries (NAM) entity as a board member by attending its monthly board meeting. This organization also provides visibility to HCDE and allows varied opportunities for partnership and collaboration with numerous agencies and other entities committed to the betterment of our community. I also attended the HUDL Kids Lab at the University of Houston. This is a unique and valuable program within our menu of services and I was pleased to represent the Department at this event.

In the area of teaching and learning, HCDE hosted the following workshops and trainings this week: Adult Education Information Session; Youth Mental Health First Aid; Workstation Make and Take for Grades 3- 6; Adult Education Information Session; Alternative Certification Program for Teachers (Information

Session); Workstation Make and Take for Algebra I; HCDE Principal Certification Academy Information Meeting; School Finance Council; Workstation Make and Take in Counting and Composing and Decomposing Numbers with Objects and Pictures for pre-K through Grades 1 and 2; and TAEI Content Standards Rollout. HCDE continues to evolve to meet the education needs of Harris County and beyond. Throughout the summer, our professional development experts are engrossed in preparing educators through our proven train the trainer model.

Looking ahead into next week, I will conduct Executive Leadership Team on Monday, followed by a meeting with a representative from the University of Houston-Downtown Tuesday. I will complete the week with additional meetings related to the operations of the Department.

Please be reminded that this year's Annual Staff Meeting will be held Thursday, August 23, 2018 at the Kingdom Builders Center. Staff will register at 9:00 a.m. Breakfast will be served at 9:30 and the event will commence at 10:00. I invite all Board Members to attend this annual event. It is the one time all employees come together. The event offers rejuvenation and motivation for the upcoming year and it also allows for years of service recognition for HCDE staff. I look forward to an exciting event and I hope to see you there.

In closing and as always, thanks for your continued support of HCDE. I hope you enjoy this issue of **The Connector** and I hope you have a relaxing weekend.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

August Board Meeting
Wednesday, August 15, 2018

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

Keith Oliphant Named New Principal at Academic and Behavior School East



Veteran educator Keith Oliphant has been named the new principal of Harris County Department of Education's Academic and Behavior School East.

With more than 20 years of teaching experience,

Oliphant has taught in Alief, Fort Bend and Houston independent school districts. He most recently served as the assistant principal at HCDE's Academic and Behavior School West.

Throughout his career, the Sugar Land resident has served as a teacher, teacher mentor, educational consultant and assistant principal and specializes in

crisis prevention, special education and instructional leadership. He holds a master's degree in educational leadership from Prairie View A&M and a bachelor's degree in sociology from Sam Houston State University.

Oliphant is an active member of the Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA), Texas High School Coaches Association (THSCA) and The American Red Cross.

HCDE's Academic and Behavior schools provide an enriching and supportive learning environment for students ages 5-22 with intellectual, developmental and behavioral disorders. For more information, visit www.hcde-texas.org.

HCDE Purchasing Division Receives Prestigious Procurement Award



The HCDE Purchasing division was notified this week that they received the Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award from the National Procurement

Institute for the second consecutive year.

This prestigious award recognizes organizational excellence in public procurement and is designed to

measure innovation, professionalism, productivity, e-procurement and leadership attributes of procurement organizations.

HCDE Purchasing division staff are invited to attend the 23rd Annual Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award Ceremony in October to be recognized for their success.

For more information, visit <https://npiconnection.org/aep/Index.asp>.

Service

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Teaching and Learning Workshop Gives Science Teachers Insight to Chemical Industry



Area science teachers gained insight to the chemical manufacturing industry during last week's "Science Teachers and Industry" workshop. The annual, summer workshop gives

secondary science teachers a better understanding of the chemical industry and Houston-area chemical plants and is sponsored by the Texas Chemical Council.

Industry experts presented a full scope of environmental viewpoints during the four-day workshop held July 16-19. Included was a field trip to a chemical plant, an overview of the Houston Ship Channel, careers in the chemical industry,

and teachers received products manufactured at area plants through a

bucket assembly. The companies also used the opportunity to reinforce their concern for the health and safety of their workers, community and the environment.

This year's focus was on careers in the chemical manufacturing industry. Teachers learned about jobs in the field and heard a panel discussion about chemical career opportunities and educational requirements for their students.

For more information about HCDE educator professional development and training, access www.hcde-texas.org.



CASE Debates Recruits for 2018-2019

CASE for Kids released a promotion video to recruit CASE Debates students for the 2018-2019 school year. The video targets instructors and students. View the video produced by Communications and Creative Services: <https://youtu.be/VvAXZMOLOSs>

Service

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

CASE for Kids Awarded \$1.5 Million in Federal Funding for 2018-2019 to Serve 10 Schools with Comprehensive Afterschool Programs



The Center for Afterschool, Summer and Enrichment for Kids, or CASE for Kids, has been awarded \$1.5

million in federal grants to fund afterschool programs through the Texas Education Agency for the 2018-2019 school year. The 10 schools receiving the funding through CASE for Kids are located within two area school districts and four charter school organizations.

Schools include Galena Park ISD's North Shore, Tice and Williamson elementary schools and Sheldon ISD's C.E. King High School, C.E. King Middle School and Royalwood Elementary School. Charter schools include Baker Ripley Promise Community School, Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans (AAMA) George I. Sanchez High School, Raul Yzaguirre Schools for Success Houston STEM & Early College High School and Southwest Schools Southwest Bissonnet Elementary.

The grant period for the federally-funded, 21st Century Community Learning Center grants is from Aug. 1, 2018 to July 31, 2019.

The Center for Afterschool, Summer and Enrichment for Kids, or CASE for Kids, provides resources, training and afterschool services for over 9,000 students in greater Harris County.

In Texas, the program regulated by TEA called Texas Afterschool Centers on Education, or Texas ACE operates before and after school sites, as well as summer enrichment. Sites provide students in grades K-12 with opportunities to access academic enrichment, tutorial services and a broad range of additional programs and enrichment activities. These can include physical fitness, nutrition, science, the arts, internships and dual credit.

The federal grants make the locally-based CASE for Kids eligible for two additional years of afterschool funding contingent upon available funds and performance. This is the 10th cohort of grants TEA has awarded since the federal program's beginnings in 2002, and CASE for Kids has gained and managed funding through all 10 cycles.

"More than ever, children need safe places to go and enriching activities to get involved in," said Lisa Thompson-Caruthers, CASE for Kids director. "We remain committed to Houston-area families as an out-of-school time leader."

Systemic Achievement

...with purposeful intent

EMPLOYEE MORALE

In keeping with the elements of performance associated with this goal for me to

1. **Create an open and positive environment for sharing resources and exchanging ideas to improve organizational climate;**
2. **Seek to systemically improve the climate by obtaining and utilizing feedback from employees of the Department;**
3. **Model and support responsible risk-taking so that all employees can be innovative and try new ideas;**
4. **Celebrate accomplishments and acknowledging excellence;**
5. **Ensure fair and equitable management practices;**
6. **Demonstrate skill in anticipating, managing, and resolving conflict; and**
7. **Demonstrate quality management through delegation of authority, team building, consensus development, leadership development, and self-management**

HCDE's Purchasing division recently received a prestigious procurement award: The Achievement of

Excellence in Procurement. The accolade was issued by the National Procurement Institute for the second consecutive year.



The award recognizes excellence in public procurement, and is designed to measure innovation, professionalism, productivity, e-procurement, and leadership attributes of procurement organizations.

As a result of this recognition, the division is invited to attend the 23rd Annual Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award Ceremony in October.

It is because of HCDE's operations and systems that our Business Services division received this prestigious award. By receipt of this recognition and countless others, I am working to ensure that HCDE employees strive to do their best, maintain the systems we have in place, and create opportunities for recognition through a commitment to excellence.

HCDE BOARD

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

August Board Meeting

Wednesday, August 15, 2018

